In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the

Application.

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently amended) In a computer system having a plurality of computers,

each connected to a storage system, each of said storage systems in communication

via an alternate path, each computer having software capable of sending and

receiving network information between said computers via a primary network, a

method ~~for providing continuous availability of the network information without use~~

~~of the primary network between respective ones of the computers~~ comprising the

steps of:

receiving transmission packets containing said network information into an

internal thread of the primary network and placing the transmission packets into a

queue determined by the type of transmission packet;

upon determination of the unavailability of the primary network, <u>in</u>

<u>conjunction with a determination that the storage systems are still available,</u> and the

determination that the transmission packet is a write packet, copying the transmission

packets into a buffer;

upon filling the buffer to a predetermined point, waking the internal thread to

process the filled buffer, wherein the internal thread writes the contents of the buffer

to the storage system and enables transmission of the stored write packets via said

alternate path, said alternate path being implemented as a virtual network interface

process wherein said stored write packets containing said network information are transmitted in a protocol suitable for said alternate path <u>enabling continuous availability of the network information without use of the primary network between respective ones of the computers</u>.

2.   (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

prior to the internal thread receiving transmission packets, a client thread submits the transmission packets into a write buffer.

3.   (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

calling, by the client thread, a transport data function, wherein the transmission packets are extracted from the buffer.

4.   (Cancelled)

5.   (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

configuring the storage system to include a receive volume and a send volume, wherein the contents of the buffer are written to a send volume;

copying the contents of the send volume to the receive volume.

6.   (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein the receive volume and

the send volume are respectively located on first and second logical volumes of the

storage system.

7.   (Cancelled)

8.   (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising

the steps of:

        configuring the storage system to include a send volume,

        configuring a second storage system to include a receive volume, wherein the

second storage system is geographically remote from the storage system;

        writing the contents of the buffer to the send volume; and

        copying the contents of the send volume to the receive volume.

9.   (Original) The method according to claim 8, further comprising the step of:

        returning the internal thread to a sleep state, after the contents of the buffer are

written to the send volume.

10.   (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein the copying of the

contents of the send volume to the receive volume occurs upon a command from one

of the plurality of computers.

11. (Currently amended) In a computer system having a plurality of applications, in communication with a storage system, each application having a process capable of sending and receiving information regarding said applications over a primary network to and from the plurality of applications, a method ~~for providing continuous availability of the application information~~ comprising the steps of:

recognizing that the primary network between the applications is unavailable, <u>in conjunction with a determination that the storage systems are still available,</u>;

in response to the unavailability of the network, writing the application network information from one of the applications to a first volume;

copying the application network information written to the first volume to a second volume system;

reading the application network information from the second volume; and

enabling transmission of the application network information via an alternate path between said respective applications, said alternate path being implemented as a virtual network interface process wherein said stored write packets containing said network information are transmitted in a protocol suitable for said alternate path <u>enabling continuous availability of the network information without use of the primary network between respective ones of the computers</u>.

12.　(Previously presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the application information is read by the second volume in less than a predetermined period of time after it is written to the first volume.

13.　(Previously presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the plurality of applications performs clustering functions.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein the plurality of applications performs internet browsing functions.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein the network is the internet.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 11, further comprising:

　　　　a second storage system geographically remote from the storage system, wherein the fist volume is on the storage system and the second volume is on the second storage system.